

REMARKS

Applicants courteously solicit favorable reconsideration followed by a notice of allowance. Applicants retained claims 1-25.

Applicants acknowledge the telephone interview with the Examiner that was conducted on or about July 14, 2010 and the follow-up telephone discussion on July 16, 2010. Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's courtesies extended during these telephone discussions. The Japanese patent publication to Ito (JP 2003-280474) was discussed inasmuch as Applicants' PCT filing date antedates the October 2, 2003 publication date of Ito's JP patent document. Thus, Ito's JP patent publication is not prior art under any provision of 35 U.S.C. 102 against the present application. Applicants therefore requested favorable reconsideration of their application.

Applicants request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Ito (JP 2003-280474) in view of Imai (U.S. Patent No. 5,639,582). Applicants respectfully submit that since Ito is not prior art, the rejection should be withdrawn and this application passed on to an Allowance.

To the extent necessary during prosecution, Applicants hereby request any required extension of time not otherwise requested and hereby authorize the Commissioner to charge any required fee not intentionally omitted, including application processing, extension, extra claims, statutory disclaimer, issue, and publication fees, to Deposit Account No. 06-1135 with respect to Order No. **7398-84282**.

Respectfully submitted,

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